

## CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A hosting environment abstraction method comprising the steps of:  
enumerating each of a set of components in an application;  
identifying dependencies between each component in said set;  
organizing a generic representation of said set of components into a hierarchical structure based upon said identified dependencies;  
producing a model encapsulating said hierarchical structure; and,  
storing said model in a repository for subsequent retrieval.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
further identifying dependencies between target platform resources and said components in said set; and,  
recording said further identified dependencies in said model.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step comprises the step of inspecting each component in said set for data and method member references to other ones of said components in said set, said references indicating a dependency.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said further identifying step comprises the step of inspecting each component in said set for data and method member references to said target platform resources.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said producing step comprises the step of writing said hierarchical structure to a markup language document wherein tags in said markup language document demarcate individual ones of said components and said identified dependencies.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing enumerating, identifying, organizing, producing and storing step subsequent to installing said application in a target platform.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of retrieving said model from said repository prior to installing a new component for use in said application.

8. A hosting environment abstraction system comprising:  
a hosting environment configured to support an application comprising a plurality of interdependent components and resources which support at least one of said interdependent components;  
a repository configured to store a dependency model of said application; and,  
a classification processor coupled to said hosting environment and said repository.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said hosting environment comprises one of an operating system, an application server and a virtual machine.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein said dependency model comprises an XML formatted document.

11. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for hosting environment abstraction, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

- enumerating each of a set of components in an application;
- identifying dependencies between each component in said set;
- organizing a generic representation of said set of components into a hierarchical structure based upon said identified dependencies;
- producing a model encapsulating said hierarchical structure; and,
- storing said model in a repository for subsequent retrieval.

12. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- further identifying dependencies between target platform resources and said components in said set; and,
- recording said further identified dependencies in said model.

13. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said identifying step comprises the step of inspecting each component in said set for data and method member references to other ones of said components in said set., said references indicating a dependency.

14. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said further identifying step comprises the step of inspecting each component in said set for data and method member references to said target platform resources.

15. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said producing step comprises the step of writing said hierarchical structure to a markup language document wherein tags in said markup language document demarcate individual ones of said components and said identified dependencies.

16. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the step of performing enumerating, identifying, organizing, producing and storing step subsequent to installing said application in a target platform.

17. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the step of retrieving said model from said repository prior to installing a new component for use in said application.